

Fellowship Informer

Stephens City Mennonite Church

Stephens City, Virginia

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts:
and though all its parts are many, they form one body.
So it is with Christ. I Corinthians 12:1

Worshiping: November–December

Advent ~ Christmas ~ Epiphany

Awesome Deeds We Do Not Expect

November 27 – Learning to pay attention

Text: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37; I Cor. 1:3-9

December 4 – Changing the Landscape

Text: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8; 2 Peter 3:8-15a

December 11 – Transforming our Sorrow

Text: Psalm 126; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28;
I Thessalonians 5:16-24

December 18 – Reordering our World

Text: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:26-38, 46-55; Romans 16:25-27

December 25 – Celebrating the Savior

Text: Psalm 148; Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Luke 2:22-40; Galatians 4:4-7

January 1, 2012 – Embracing a Wide Body

Text: Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12;
Ephesians 3:1-12

Upcoming Activities

November 23	Stephens City Community Thanksgiving at Deliverance Church	7 PM
December 10	Christgiving: Holly, Jolly Tamale	6 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7 PM
December 25	Christmas Morning Worship	10:30 AM

December 24: **Christmas Eve**
7:00–8:30 P.M.

A carol and candlelight service called *Journey to Bethlehem*. Light refreshments following the service.



FRIENDS AND VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Healthy Habits for the Holidays

The holidays are quickly approaching. For most of us this means the opportunity to eat more food from Thanksgiving straight through the New Year. Along with this comes stress of preparing more foods, sweets, and extra shopping. There are more get-togethers with friends and family, and overeating can become a problem. Here are a few suggestions, and you may have more to add to your list:

- Try to eat healthy and to portion-control those foods high in sugars, fats, and calories.
- If you are invited to a party, don't go hungry; eat a healthy snack before going to curb your appetite, which in turn may help to keep you from overeating.
- Share a dessert with your spouse or a friend after a large meal, if you have a need to satisfy a sweet tooth. I think that the more sweets an individual eats, the more they want to continue to satisfy the urge.

To relieve stress: Take time for a walk, relax, and make or listen to Christmas music, or watch your favorite movie. Attend Christmas concerts and programs in the area.

If you bake a lot during the holidays, you may want to have a baking party: Invite friends and family to come and bring their favorite cookie and candy recipes to prepare for the day, and then divide the sweets among everyone. It will make the extra load of baking lighter for everyone, and just think of all of the fun and fellowship you will have together.

Above all do not lose track of the meaning of Christmas in all of these extra activities. What a gift God has given to us and the world—Jesus as a baby, then the cross, and then the empty tomb! Nothing surpasses this gift of eternal life through Him, and what a gift to pass on to others!

From special friends a few years ago for Christmas, I received the following that I want to share with you. I use it to reflect when my life becomes hectic around the holidays.

Quiet my heart, Lord, and show me a Christmas
As peaceful and calm as an old cattle shed . . .

Slow down my pace, Lord, and help me seek Jesus,
The Son of Your Love, in a humble straw bed . . .

Steady my spirit, Lord, and call me from chaos
In simple surrender to pray and rejoice . . .

Break through the busy, too-bright celebration,
And whisper Your message, "Be still . . . hear My voice."

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

Joan Rosenberger, Parish Nurse



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Harvest Party Pictures



Penny Power Report

Stephens City just about filled the jug to the top this year.

Our jug had \$390.54, and it was matched by an anonymous donor who brought our total giving to \$781.08.

Overall, after the matching donations all came in, the Penny Power project raised \$36,917.02 for the designated water projects in Haiti and Tanzania.

Thanks for all your generous support!



Generous Giving

Angel Tree Project

Kristen Miller is taking over the Angel Tree Ministry this year. The plan is to sponsor about 5 children in the Stephens City and Middletown area. The Angel Tree will be placed in the back of the church. Kristen's home number is 540-868-8137. Thanks!!

The website for Angel Tree: www.angeltree.org



ABBACare

ABBACare has requested donations to fill their layettes. They are looking for new items. They are looking for items that are Newborn–3 months. Here is a list of what they need. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Diapers
Heavy & receiving blankets
4-5 outfits/sleepers
Jacket/sweater
2-3 washcloths
Bottles/pacifiers

Baby wash/lotion
Onesies sizes 3-4 months
Socks/booties
Hats/bibs
Toys



If you cannot take your items to ABBACare I would be glad to do it for you. It might make a good project for the Sunday School classes!

Monica

Holly Jolly Tamale Party

(aka Christgiving)

Daniel Garcia and friends will prepare the tamales. We are invited to bring side dishes of rice et cetera, fruits, and salads. There will be a piñata with goodies for the young at heart. The theme will focus on Christmas in Mexico. There will be lots of singing in English and Spanish.

December 10 at 6:30 P.M. at SCMC

Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale Report

- Food profit	\$93,480
- Main auction	\$102,225.90
- Total profit	\$264,547.27
- Number of pies donated	560

2012 Relief Sale Dates

October 5 and 6